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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 77,580 | Nifty 23,532 | Gold 74,072 | Silver 88,893 | Dollar 84.43 | Euro 89.26 | GBP 106.95

CHARGED UP

Study shows city would need 36,000+ public charger guns, 400 charging stations, 141-acre land by 2030 for its EV needs

PAGE 4

STRUCTURAL FLAW

So far, just 2,562 unauthorised buildings identified in BBMP survey; Mahadevapura tops the list with 528 illegal structures

PAGE 9

Of ₹300 crore, only ₹100 crore was available for dewatering, desilting of Bellandur Lake; only 22.69 lakh cubic metre of total 32.33 lakh cubic metre silt removed; Varthur work also not up to mark

CLOG IN THE WHEEL

Not much progress in wetland construction work

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Bellandur Lake rejuvenation work has been hit by cash crunch.

Due to paucity of funds, the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has not been able to restart dewatering and desilting of the lake, say sources.

"Although Rs 300 crore was put in the Escrow account, only Rs 100 crore was available for use. While this amount is already spent, the rest of the money has not been released yet. BDA has been pursuing the issue with the chief secretary and additional chief secretary of the Government of Karnataka, but no action has been taken so far," said a source.

BDA, which initiated the desilting of the lake in 2020 has so far removed 22.69 lakh cubic metres of silt out of the total of 32.33 lakh cubic metres.

In a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently, BDA claimed that 70% of the total estimated silt in diversion channels has been removed. However, rainwater impeded the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"Nearly a 100 surveillance cameras were installed but they have not been functioning for three years now; the lights are also not working. BBMP marshals posted for monitoring the project site have not received monthly compensation — Professor TV Ramachandra

Fare not fair

Taxi passengers talk of being overcharged as uniform fare structure compliance remains poor

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Despite the Transport Department's efforts to regulate taxi fares, passengers continue to be 'overcharged' by taxi aggregators and drivers. In February, the department established a uniform fare structure, but compliance has been poor.

Aggregators and drivers are charging two to three times the fixed rates, many passengers claimed.

Suresh Gowda, a civic activist, told BM, "When booking a taxi through an app, the fare is displayed, but it is not fixed and varies depending on the location and time of booking. Aggregator companies determine the fare based on distance and travel time, informing the customer accordingly. However, customers have no choice but to accept the fare set by the aggregator, which is often higher than the regulated fare, forcing them to pay more."

He said the practice was exploitative and customers are often unaware they are being overcharged. "Aggregator companies manipulate fares at will, pocketing the extra money while drivers and owners see none of the increased revenue. This situation amounts to exploitation of customers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Handloom fair

Explore the vibrant and time-honoured weaves of Karnataka through a 'Handloom Santhe' as Ragi Kana invites you to a celebration of Karnataka's handloom heritage, gathering artisans, performers, and admirers of traditional crafts. The event will feature 12 unique handloom fabric makers from across Karnataka, a 'Theatre Music' program by B Jayashri and her troupe, an exclusive exhibition of Karnataka sarees by Vrunda Shekhar, a prominent Ilkal Revivalist, Handloom Researcher, and Weaver Storyteller, a 'Plant Exchange' event, and more. **Where: Ragi Kana, Gottigere; When: November 17**

02 Let's talk about sarees

Join in for a curated storytelling morning 'Weaving a story,' an exploration of Bhujodi Sarees and textiles. Aparna Jaishankar, in collaboration with Priyanka Rajwar and Roli Mishra, will delve into stories of the symbolic significance of the colours and motifs, from the threads to the textured pallu. A curated collection of sarees from Vayaka India will be on display. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar When: November 17, 12 pm**

Celebrating Kannada

BMS College of Commerce and Management organised 'Nudi Sambhrama' as part of the Kannada Rajyotsava celebration. The event was inaugurated by Dr Purushottama Bilimale, President of the Kannada Development Authority, along with film writer Dr V Nagendra Prasad and folk singer and actress Savitakka. The event was presided over by Aviram Sharma, Chairman, BOG BMS College of Commerce and Management. Dr Purushottama expressed concerns over the gradual decline of many regional languages in India. He stressed the importance of making Kannada the language of the heart, especially now when foreign languages are increasingly overshadowing native ones. Dr Nagendra stressed how Kannada could be adopted in daily life and integrated into the routine of students. Savitakka entertained all through folk songs. The students also participated in cultural performances, highlighting the rich traditions of Kannada culture.

BU walks towards greener pastures for better campus

Bangalore University plans to plant more trees, implement geo-fencing, install barbed wire fencing across its Jnana Bharathi campus boundaries

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After receiving multiple complaints of reduced green cover in the campus vicinity, Bangalore University (BU) is claiming to have initiated plans to enhance the green cover and install geo-fencing across its Jnana Bharathi campus. BU officials said that they have taken up collaboration with the Environmental Management and Research Institute (EMPRI) and the Art of Living Foundation for environmental management, natural research, afforestation, and creating a zero-waste campus. It is reported that around 236 acres of the campus land are under dispute between the university and the state government, while 29 acres have been encroached upon by private entities.

"With the need to conserve and nurture forest wealth for future generations, Bangalore University has signed an agreement with EMPRI. Work on afforestation and building check dams will commence shortly. These initiatives are aimed at restoring the ecological balance and ensuring that the campus remains a green and sustainable space for years to come," said Dr SM Jayakar, Vice-Chancellor of BU.

Plans to enhance campus environment

According to a BU official, the university is undertaking a series of measures to enhance its campus environment and security. An official said, "As part of its afforestation efforts, more trees will be planted in the 'Dhanvantri Vana' area to boost the green cover. To tackle land encroachment and safeguard its properties, the university is planning to implement geo-fencing and install barbed wire fencing around its boundaries, securing the remaining 945 acres under its jurisdiction."

Cleanliness & water conservation

The official further said that the campus will be equipped with check dams to improve water conservation, and designated pollution-free zones will be marked to ensure effective waste management. "...Addressing littering within the Jnana Bharathi campus, the university has introduced strict penalties for violators, including public and vehicle owners. Security personnel and marshals, in collaboration with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), will be deployed to enforce these regulations, ensuring cleanliness and discipline throughout the premises."

Rejuvenating Vrishabhavathi Valley

The Vrishabhavathi Valley, once a lifeline for the city, has become severely polluted. The two-kilometre stretch of the canal within the Jnanabharathi campus is clogged with plastic and other waste, leading to foul odours. The university has resolved to clean the canal scientifically and implement measures to prevent further contamination.

File photo of trees being pulled down making a way for construction activities and parking area at BU's Jnana Bharathi campus

'Absolutely blind candidates must be prioritised over low vision ones in jobs'

Karnataka High Court has emphasised that individuals with "absolute blindness" should be given preference over those with "low vision" in employment opportunities, provided their disability does not hinder their ability to perform duties. This decision was made by a division bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice CM Joshi while dismissing an appeal by the Department of School Education against an earlier order from the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT).

The case revolved around HN Latha, a blind candidate from the Scheduled Caste community in Periyapatna, Mysuru. Latha had applied for the position of kannada and social studies teacher at a government primary school in 2022. Her name was included in the selection list released on March 8, 2023. However, on July 4, 2023, her application was rejected, prompting her to challenge the decision before KSAT.

The tribunal ruled in her favour, awarding her Rs 10,000 in costs and instructing the appointing authority to reconsider her application within three months. The Department of School Education contested this decision, arguing that reservations for candidates with "low vision" and those with "absolute blindness" should be treated as separate categories. The department claimed that the tribunal had overlooked this distinction.

Upon reviewing the case, the HC bench disagreed with the department's stance. The judges noted that while there might be concerns about a completely blind individual handling the responsibilities of a graduate primary teacher, particularly in subjects like social studies and kannada, such arguments were unconvincing given that the candidate met the educational requirements for the role.

Need for inclusive hiring practices

The HC highlighted the positive attributes often seen in individuals with blindness, such as adaptability, resilience, strong memory, heightened senses, and excellent coping skills. The bench cited notable historical figures who achieved great success despite being blind, including Homer, John Milton, Louis Braille, Helen Keller, and Srikanth Bolla, the CEO of Bollant Industries. The court concluded that the education department should have either set aside specific posts for candidates with absolute blindness or allowed them to compete alongside low-vision candidates for available positions. Upholding the tribunal's directive, it underscored the need for inclusive hiring practices that recognise the capabilities of blind candidates. **– PTI**

A blind teacher interacts with his students at Government High School, Rajajinagar (file photo)

Crooked investment

4, including 2 students, arrested in Rs 12-lakh fraud

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The Cyber- Economic and Narcotic Police Station (CEN) of the South- East division arrested four persons from Rajasthan, who were using students and their bank accounts for a large-scale investment scam in Bengaluru. The police recovered 19 mobile phones, two laptops, 20 SIM cards, 34 bank passbooks, 106 credit/debit cards, 39 cheque books and Rs 75,000 in cash from a rented house used by these accused in Udaipur.

The accused have been identified as Abhay Dhan (19) a 1st-year degree student, Pavan Bishnoi (21) who had completed his 12th, Aravind Kumar (19), a college dropout, and Sawayi Singh (21), who is unemployed. The four would travel to Bengaluru to get in touch with students from Rajasthan, convince them to open bank accounts saying they would get profit. The accused would use the bank accounts to commit cyber investment frauds, withdrawing the money and transferring it to other accounts.

This arrest comes after an investigation was launched in response to a complaint lodged by a woman in September. She had been promised a part-time job and transferred ₹12 lakh to various bank accounts.

KAUSHIK JN

Modus operandi

During the investigation, Abhay and Pavan revealed that the other two members of their gang had travelled to Bengaluru to recruit more students. Their goal was to convince local students to open bank accounts, promising them hefty profits.

The gang would then take these passbooks back to Rajasthan. The group first visited Bengaluru in August, and their activities were uncovered by authorities in October.

According to police sources, Abhay got involved in the scheme after meeting a Chinese contact on Telegram. He initially invested money and received some returns, which built trust.

However, the Chinese contact later asked for additional bank accounts to facilitate the transfer of "profits".

To carry out the fraud, Abhay, along with his associates, all from Rajasthan, travelled to Bengaluru and targeted Rajasthani students.

Although aware that it was a scam, they lured students with promises of massive profits, using their own earnings as examples. Once a student agreed, the gang would pay them ₹5,000 as an initial deposit for the account.

They took the passbooks, claiming the money would be used for cryptocurrency trading and profits would be shared. From these accounts they purchased USDT (a cryptocurrency) on the Binance platform, which was then transferred to digital wallets. This yielded them additional profits and commissions.

Further investigation

The arrests led to detection of 43 cases in and across the country including 15 other states. Police revealed that the fraudsters deposited the victim's money and transferred it to a Hawala agent, who then funnelled the funds to the Chinese contact. They also engaged in cryptocurrency trading, buying digital assets at low prices and selling them at a profit to the Chinese handler.

Investigations showed that the gang had links to international operations. Initially, they had set up in Saudi Arabia, but later shifted their base to Cambodia.

Traced bank accounts led back to Cambodia, with BPO-like setups operating out of Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and even parts of Afghanistan.

The police are currently on the look-out for the other accused.

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B'luru needs thousands of EV chargers by 2030: Study

City will require over 36,000 public EV chargers, 400 stations, 141 acres of land to support 23 lakh EVs; researchers stress need for strategic locations

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A study conducted by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) has highlighted that to meet its electric vehicles' demands, Bengaluru would require more than 36,000 public charger guns, 400 charging stations, and 141-acre land by 2030.

Researchers say an increasing number of Bengalureans are adopting EVs over their conventional counterparts as electric vehicles (EVs) have zero tailpipe emissions and lower running costs. As per CSTEP, the city will have more than 23 lakh EVs by 2030. However, for a smoother transition to EVs, challenges related to battery charging need to be overcome.

The city will need over 36,000 public charger guns to support more than 23 lakh EVs, a 25-fold increase from 2023 levels. Further, the annual estimated energy demand from EV charging in 2030 would be 3.3–4.1 BU, accounting for 7%–9% of the city's annual energy demand. Moreover, the peak load due to EV charging is expected to reach 1.2 GW by 2030, as against 0.096 GW in 2023.

Researchers have also looked at the impact of charging guns on the grid, and potential locations for setting them up. The study also proposed charging tariffs for 2030 by considering the current utilisation rates, tariffs, and anticipated demand in 2030.

Researchers say more Bengalureans are switching to EVs due to their zero emissions and lower running cost

Consumer surveys were used to gauge perceptions about EVs and their charging patterns.

The study also assessed the demand for public charger guns in each Regional Transport Office (RTO) zone in Bengaluru. Subsequently, it identified approximately 400 potential charging locations (eexample: IT parks, metro stations, fuel stations, and shopping malls) in nine RTO zones to meet the demand of the future. The land required for establishing these charging stations would be 141 acres, which is equivalent to the land for approximately 700 petrol pumps.

To assess the business viability for charge point operators to set up charging stations in the metropolis, researchers also conducted a commercial analysis. As per the results, the city's charger utilisation rates are expected to be 25%–50% in 2030, and the corresponding tariffs for various types of charger guns can be capped at Rs 11– 15/kWh.

Study identifies 400 potential charging locations across 9 RTO zones in city, including IT parks, metro stations, fuel stations, and malls

The study highlights that overnight home charging, which is currently preferred by EV users, results in the least strain on the grid. However, going ahead, promoting daytime charging at workplaces or public charging stations, through policy measures, may be beneficial for significantly increasing the share of renewable energy used for EV charging.

BMTC adds charging stations to support 1,000+ electric buses

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As the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) increases its fleet of electric buses, the requirement for charging stations has also increased. Currently, BMTC operates 1,027 electric buses across the city. So far, 14 depots have been equipped with EV charging stations. Now, there are plans to install EV charging stations, especially at those places where the drivers take breaks.

New charging stations at major depots

An official said, "High-capacity EV chargers have been installed at locations including the Kempegowda Bus Station, Yeshwanthpur, Basavanagar, Central Silk Board, Hoskote, Kalasipalyam, Shivajinagar, BTM Bus Stand, Bannerghatta TTMC, Hebbal, and various depots. Each charger can accommodate around 200 buses, providing drivers with a 45-minute charge window during breaks. Contractors Tata and Switch Mobility have funded and set up their own EV chargers. BMTC has not spent on setting up these stations but oversees their maintenance. The contractors handle all station operations, and BMTC only covers any electricity usage beyond a set threshold."

Cost savings with electric buses

BMTC officials said that operating electric buses costs BMTC ₹54 per kilometre compared to ₹87 for diesel buses, saving ₹33 per kilometre. Each bus averages 100-150 km daily, consuming 1 unit of electricity per km at ₹7 per unit. The shift has saved 56,000 litres of diesel monthly, reducing both expenses and emissions. With each litre of diesel burned releasing 2.54 kg of carbon, replacing diesel buses with electric ones significantly reduces emissions. On average, a single diesel bus releases 120-135 kg of carbon daily. By increasing its electric bus fleet, BMTC is actively reducing this environmental impact.

With more EVs to be added to the BMTC fleet, it may be noted that BMTC currently has 1,027 electric buses, including 90 air-conditioned buses launched under the Bengaluru Smart City Project, 300 non-air-conditioned buses under the FAME-2 scheme, and 637 air-conditioned buses supported by the FAME-3 scheme. To support this growing fleet, new EV charging stations have been installed across 14 depots, collectively serving around 200 buses and allowing a 45-minute charge session for each vehicle. "Through its continued transition from diesel to electric buses, BMTC aims to provide Bengaluru with cleaner air and substantial cost savings," an official added.

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Garbage chaos

Kundalahalli

Garbage trucks on the road near Kundalahalli are raising a stink and blocking footpaths. BBMP needs to act quickly.

Clean-up needed

Horamavu

Amar Regency Layout in Horamavu is overwhelmed by garbage, creating serious health and safety risks for residents. Authorities must act urgently.

Drain blockage

Sanjaynagara

The blocked drain on 3rd Cross, Sanjaynagara, causes drainage overflow onto the road.

When sun goes down, crooks sneak in like clockwork

Theft syndicate bust in city: Cops nab 12 thieves, recover 62 stolen vehicles, other valuables

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Stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate other criminal activities; this calls for strict action to be taken against vehicle theft, stated Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda during a weekly press conference on Friday in the city.

Recently, a two-wheeler theft investigation revealed that a 12-member syndicate was responsible for a series of chain snatching, bag snatching, and other robberies, exploiting stolen vehicles as a means to swiftly execute these crimes and evade detection.

"A total of 62 stolen vehicles have been recovered, leading to the revelation of 37 cases and the arrest of 12 suspects, five of whom have a history of theft. The value of the recovered vehicles stands at more than Rs 60 lakh. Many of these vehicles were taken from poorly lit areas or where they were parked outside homes and shops. I urge citizens to park in well-lit areas, consider installing GPS tracking, and take additional safety measures to prevent theft," the police commissioner said.

'Stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate other criminal activities like house break-ins, chain or bag snatching, or other robberies'

House break-ins

In one of the cases, the accused broke into the woman's home in Sidedahalli on the night of October 11, fleeing with her gold necklace worth Rs 85,000 (13 grams). Bagalagunte Police on October 18 arrested a man responsible for the reporry and also theft of motorcycles across Bengaluru. The accused confessed to multiple crimes, leading to the recovery of five stolen motorcycles worth Rs 2.5 lakh.

> **I urge citizens to park in well-lit areas, consider installing GPS tracking, & take additional safety measures to prevent theft**
> –B Dayananda, City Police Commissioner

Tampering of stolen two-wheelers

In another incident, a two-wheeler theft complaint was filed on October 13 by a resident of Ganganagar. Two suspects were arrested on October 22 on CBI Main Road, who admitted to stealing two-wheelers across Bengaluru, erasing their engine and chassis numbers, and replacing them with fake ones. Police seized 12 stolen two-wheelers, along with the car used for the crime, totally valued at Rs 9.5 lakh. This arrest solved two cases: one each in the RT Nagar and KR Puram Police Station limits. Police are working to identify the owners of the remaining vehicles.

Multiple theft cases

In a separate case, the police detained two suspects on November 6 for stealing a two-wheeler parked outside a house at night in Chikkabanavara. The duo confessed to stealing nine two-wheelers and one autorickshaw. A minor among the accused was counselled and released to his parents. Vehicles were recovered from various locations, valuing an estimated Rs 7 lakh. This arrest resolved multiple theft cases across Soladevanahalli, Kengeri, Nelamangala, and Talaghattapura.

Similarly, two individuals were nabbed in the theft of six motorcycles on November 1. Over subsequent days, police recovered 11 motorcycles, 25 mobile phones, and 21 grams of gold jewellery from various locations. The stolen items, valued at Rs 13 lakh, helped resolve cases in Suddaguntepalya, Tilaknagar, and Sarjapur Police Station limits. Efforts to trace the owners of the remaining items are ongoing. In another case, police recovered 11 motorcycles valued at Rs 14.45 lakh from locations across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, resolving 11 cases in Chikkajala, Yeshwanthpur, and Hoskote, among others.

In another investigation, the cops arrested two individuals and seized four stolen motorcycles valued at 22.5 lakh. Moreover, nine motorcycles and a car valued at Rs 10 lakh were seized in a theft case in March; the police apprehended the accused on October 30. This operation resolved cases across Banaswadi, Hebbagodi, and Bagalur.

Will challenge bail granted to Darshan in SC: City Police Commissioner

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday said that the police will file an appeal in the Supreme Court questioning the bail granted to Kannada superstar Darshan in the fan murder case.

Sources said that the state Home Department has consented to the proposal of the police to make an appeal seeking cancellation of bail to Darshan and the petition will be filed next week. Senior counsel VN Raghupathi has been appointed to represent the state police.

Darshan was released from prison on October 30, after 131 days behind bars, after Karnataka High Court granted him conditional bail on medical grounds for six weeks. The actor is admitted to the BGS Apollo Hospital in Bengaluru and is being treated for severe back pain. However, he has not undergone surgery yet, and it is against this backdrop, that the police are moving the appeal petition in the apex court, sources stated.

Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Wednesday that he has consented to the filing of an appeal in the SC against grant of bail to Darshan in the Renukaswamy murder case. "I have conveyed to the Secretary of the Home Department that if they want to make an appeal with the higher court in Darshan's case, they can go ahead," he said.

File photos of Darshan visiting a hospital in B'luru; (inset) Police Commissioner B Dayananda

Grounds for bail

For the bail, it was submitted that Darshan is facing severe back pain and the disc between L5 and S1 has bulged. Darshan has been undergoing treatment in this regard since 2022-23 and the court was given all records. In the bail hearing in the HC, counsel for Darshan stated that if the actor does not undergo surgery, there is a possibility of him getting a stroke.

The HC had allowed Darshan to get the treatment at his choice of hospital. He was asked to submit the details and report of the medical treatment he was undergoing within seven days.

–IANS

Bengaluru-Challekere four-laning to boost real estate

Numerous vital stretches within the city facilitate seamless travel for motorists. Among these high-density corridors, the Bengaluru-Ballari road assumes a particularly crucial role. This road holds significance not only for connecting Bengaluru to areas in Andhra Pradesh but also for linking vast regions of Karnataka, including Challakere, Ballari, Lingasugur, Surpur, Shahpur, Kalaburgi, and beyond. Numerous areas are witnessing development along the highway, where individuals from Bengaluru are acquiring plots at affordable rates for either relocation or constructing holiday homes.

An important update now emerges. A pivotal stretch of highway connecting Bengaluru to Ballari is the Hiriyur-Challakere section. With a sanctioned cost of Rs 1,167.52 crore for a stretch of 55.7 kilometre, the project received approval on March 24, 2018, but the actual work commenced only on January 29, 2021. As of now, 43.8 km has been completed. The project is currently estimated to be completed by April 30, 2025, with an expenditure of Rs 890.75 crore incurred thus far. As of now, the Bengaluru-Hiriyur, which is part of the Bengaluru-Mumbai stretch, is already four-laned. However, the stretch (deviation from Hiriyur) is two-laned, and now once it is four-laned, the travel will become seamless. Additionally, the four-laning of the remaining works between Hospet-Ballari and the Andhra Pradesh border was awarded on December 27, 2022, at a cost of Rs 1,340.15 crore. Out of the 95.37 km stretch, 61.99 km has been completed, and the expected completion date is May 14, 2025. This project commenced on May 16, 2023, with an expenditure of Rs 171.97 crore spent to date.

Project is estimated to be completed by April 2025 (File photo)

Ramesh Gowda, a property developer said, "As this highway connects Bengaluru to critical regions like Ballari, Lingasugur, and beyond, the infrastructure improvement will open up new avenues for development in previously underdeveloped or less accessible areas. With improved connectivity, the real estate market in Nelamangala, located along this corridor, stands to benefit immensely. Moreover, the strategic location of Nelamangala in close proximity to the four-laned highway will result in an increase in demand for housing and commercial spaces. The improved road infrastructure is therefore poised to catalyse economic growth in the region, encouraging both new residents and businesses to invest in the area."

-Prakash VL

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Real estate uptick in North Bengaluru

Property development in North Bengaluru has been experiencing significant growth in recent years, driven by improved infrastructure, increasing connectivity, and the expansion of key economic hubs. The area has seen a surge in demand for both residential and commercial properties as more people seek affordable yet accessible living spaces away from the city's bustling central areas.

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Kanakapura Road: Current rising hub for premium plots

In recent years, Kanakapura Road, once a quiet stretch connecting Bengaluru to the southern parts of the state, has rapidly transformed into one of the city's most sought-after locations for premium residential plots. The area is experiencing a surge in demand, driven by a combination of improved infrastructure, accessibility, and a rapidly growing real estate market. As developers continue to launch high-end projects, both residential and commercial, the area is becoming an attractive investment destination for homebuyers, especially those looking for a peaceful yet connected suburban lifestyle.

One of the biggest draws of Kanakapura Road is its excellent connectivity. With the expansion of roads and the introduction of new highways, commuting to key business districts in the city like Koramangala, Electronic City, and Whitefield has become much easier. The presence of the NICE (Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises) road further enhances the accessibility of Kanakapura Road, making it a highly desirable area for those working in the city but preferring to live in a quieter, less congested environment.

Improved infrastructure key factor for rising demand (File photo)

Infrastructure & amenities: Key factor for demand

"As the demand for premium plots increases, developers have focused on ensuring that the area offers top-notch infrastructure and amenities that cater to modern living. Residents are no longer settling for just a plot of land but are looking for a comprehensive package that includes excellent drinking water supply, electricity, wide, well-maintained roads, and lush green parks. These are the key ingredients that make Kanakapura Road an attractive option for homebuyers. The area has witnessed significant improvements in the civic infrastructure over the past few years. Drinking water supply is a major concern in many parts of the city, but Kanakapura Road has seen the installation of reliable water pipelines, with water quality meeting all required standards. Hence, when we plan projects along Kanakapura Road, we make sure that basic utilities like drinking water and electricity are in place. We want our customers to feel comfortable and secure with a steady supply of these essential services," said Rahul V, a property developer.

Radhika Kumar, a buyer said, "Electricity in the area is supplied consistently, and the roads, including the arterial stretches of Kanakapura Road, have been upgraded to handle the growing number of vehicles and improve commuting time. These infrastructure improvements are not only enhancing the quality of life for residents but also making the area more appealing to potential buyers." She added that another major feature of Kanakapura Road developments is the creation of parks and children's play areas, ensuring that families can enjoy a balanced lifestyle. Gated communities and residential complexes along this stretch of road are increasingly being designed with landscaped gardens, jogging tracks, and dedicated spaces for children's activities. "Hence, I moved here with my family because of the green spaces and play areas for my children. We wanted to live in a place where our kids could safely play outdoors, away from the hustle of the city. The parks and the overall environment here are just perfect for families," Kumar specified.

Growing popularity among investors

Real estate investors have also recognised the immense potential of the Kanakapura Road stretch. As land prices in central Bengaluru continue to rise, many are looking towards the southern parts of the city, where prices are more affordable yet offer similar connectivity and amenities. This has led to a steady increase in the number of investment opportunities in the area, with developers offering plots at varying price points to cater to different types of buyers. "A few years ago, most people did not even know about the potential of Kanakapura Road. But with the increase in infrastructure and the urbanisation of the area, it's now becoming one of the best places for investment. We are seeing high investment returns, and we believe this trend will continue for the next 5 to 10 years. The area's ability to offer spacious plots, modern amenities, and proximity to nature makes it a prime choice for both homebuyers and investors. The demand for premium plots is further fuelled by the fact that there are fewer such plots available in the city center, making Kanakapura Road an attractive alternative for those looking to build their dream homes or invest in future growth," says Sanjay Reddy, a prominent property developer in the region.

–Prakash VL

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

CURVED VISTA

Winding road in picturesque Madikeri

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BBMP asks officials to remove encroachments in Mahadevapura

BBMP chief commissioner inspects area, asks officials to clear lake and drain encroachments

During an inspection on Friday, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath instructed officials to identify and remove encroachments on the lake, stormwater drains, and side drains in the Mahadevapura zone. During his inspection of various locations in Mahadevapura, he directed officials to carry out removal operations at the encroached areas of the Vengaiah Lake. The work on the Vengayyana Lake in KR Puram includes a budget of Rs. 8 crore for desilting the lake, installing fencing around the lake, reinforcing the bund, creating an airstrip, repairing the inlet, and building a diversion line, along with other developmental works. To prevent sewage water from entering the lake, the corporation has set up a 15 MLD sewage treatment plant, while 10 MLD capacity has already been established by the Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Clearing encroachments

To prevent flooding during the monsoon season on Sakra Hospital Road, repairs have been undertaken along a 750-metre stretch. The stormwater drain passing through this road will have concrete roads constructed on both sides for about 120 metres, with the remaining stretch being asphalted. Officials confirmed the work would be completed within the stipulated time frame. They also directed officials to clear encroachments from both the stormwater drains coming from the Eco Space and Sakra Hospital areas.

Service road repair works to be completed quickly

He said that the service road near Marathahalli Outer Ring Road is undergoing repair work, including the construction of a pedestrian pathway and median drains. Officials instructed that the side drains be desilted, new slabs be installed, and grating be provided to ensure smooth water flow into the drains. The remaining work is to be completed promptly. Nath visited the Whitefield Subdivision Assistant Revenue Officer's office and instructed the installation of a help centre and information boards for the convenience of the citizens.

He also directed the area commissioner to take action against officials who have been negligent in collecting outstanding property taxes or dealing with pending issues related to encroachments and improvements.

Culvert drain inspection

An inspection was carried out at the culvert drain near the ITPL Road, where officials were instructed to desilt the drain and maintain cleanliness. A permanent solution to prevent waterlogging at this location should be explored, and the Stormwater Drainage Department has been tasked with resolving the issue.

— BMB

DID YOU KNOW?

Adults, not children, make up the great bulk of missing person instances in the US. According to estimates, adults make up about 90% of missing person reports, with children making up the remaining 10%. This number emphasises how critical it is to acknowledge the vulnerability of individuals who disappear, frequently for a variety of reasons, including substance misuse, domestic violence, mental health problems, or just plain wandering. It's important to keep in mind that adult disappearances are just as alarming and demand concerted efforts to be resolved, even though kid disappearances frequently receive a lot of media coverage and public concern. Increasing public knowledge of this issue can aid in reorienting society and allocating funds to meet the needs of adults who are absent.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

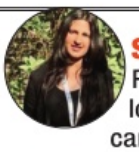
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What advice would you give to newcomers to Bengaluru to help them integrate into the city's vibrant community?

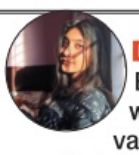
Mausam, BM Reader
Coming to Bengaluru with an open mindset is crucial for newcomers. Expect to encounter diverse individuals, and be prepared to engage in conversations. The city thrives on its vibrant community.

Himanshi, BM Reader
Bengaluru is a melting pot of different cuisines and traditions, so being open to exploring and trying new things will help newcomers immerse themselves in the rich cultural tapestry of the city.



Surbhi, BM Reader
First, make an effort to learn the local language, as it will significantly enhance your communication and connection with the locals. Respect the local customs, as this demonstrates cultural awareness and fosters positive interactions.

Avantika, BM Reader
Integration into Bengaluru's vibrant community often begins with forming connections. While exploring the city, try to get along with people and gradually build a solid friend group.



Dhriti, BM Reader
Bengaluru offers a plethora of workshops and classes covering various interests. Enrolling in these activities not only enhances your skills but also provides an excellent opportunity to mingle with different people.

Kanika, BM Reader
Shifting to a new city like Bengaluru requires an open mindset and a willingness to embrace change. Be prepared to learn new things and accept them with enthusiasm.

SPEAK TO US

What initiatives or community projects have positively impacted your neighbourhood in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Illegal constructions identified: So far, just 2,562 spotted

Mahadevapura has highest unauthorised buildings in city, reveals slow-moving survey

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Mahadevapura zone which houses the tech corridor of Whitefield and many prominent localities has the highest number of unauthorised buildings in the city. As per a survey by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP), Mahadevapura zone tops the list with 528 unauthorised buildings identified, followed by East Zone with 446 and Dasarahalli Zone with 348. West and City Zones have reported an equal number of 328 illegal constructions each. On the other hand, Bommanahalli Zone has 275 unauthorised structures, while Yelahanka Zone has reported 167. The South Zone, despite having a large number of wards, has recorded the lowest figure with only 142 illegal buildings identified.

In total, the BBMP survey has identified 2,562 illegal constructions across the city, highlighting the widespread nature of the issue and the varying levels of enforcement in different zones.

Sources said that BBMP officials at the zonal and ward levels were facing challenges in conducting a survey of unauthorised constructions across the city. Despite the directive to identify all unauthorised buildings within a week following the collapse of an illegal structure in Babusapalya, which claimed the lives of nine workers last month, only 2,500 buildings have been identified so far. The BBMP officially commenced the survey on October 28, and two weeks into the process, only 2,562 unauthorised constructions have been identified across the city's eight zones.

BBMP officials at the zonal and ward levels are facing challenges in conducting survey

Tough spot

Reports suggest that local political pressures and past compromises by officials to permit illegal constructions have left them in a quandary. Despite instructions to submit daily survey data from each zone to the central office, only one or two zones have been consistently reporting figures over the past two days. Moreover, data submitted by the remaining zones often appear to be vague, leaving the central office unsure about the actual progress of the survey.

Only 1-2 zones submitting figures consistently over past few days

It may be noted that during their separate visits to the Babusapalya collapse site, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had instructed that stringent action would be taken against officials, including zonal commissioners and engineers, if illegal constructions continued. They stressed that no external influence should hinder the survey process and demanded a report within a week. Following this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had issued orders in line with these instructions. However, two weeks later, the survey remains incomplete, and there has been little adherence to the directives at the local level. Activists allege that delay in completing the survey raises serious concerns about the commitment of civic officials to tackle the issue of illegal constructions in Bengaluru.

2 arrested for mobile phone theft, smuggling

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Chandra Layout Police arrested two men involved in a mobile phone theft and smuggling racket. The accused, both managers at a DTDC courier branch located at Goodwill Apartments, 2nd Main Road, were allegedly stealing mobile phones and selling them in other states. Police seized 52 stolen mobile phones worth 10.5 lakh during the investigation.

The case came to light when a complaint was lodged on October 24, at the Chandra Layout Police Station. According to the complaint, a box containing 12 mobile phones, originally sent via DTDC courier to Kerala on October 14, was returned as it went unclaimed. Upon inspection at the courier office, the box was found to contain stolen phones, prompting police to launch an investigation.

On October 30, police arrested a suspect near Basaveshwar Circle in Bhadravati. During interrogation, the accused confessed to his involvement and revealed that stolen phones were being sent through couriers to be sold in other states. Subsequent raids led to the recovery of 10 mobile phones from the accused's residence in Bhovi Colony, Bhadravati, on November 3. Another suspect, operating a mobile shop in Konduparambil, was arrested on November 7, and 30 stolen phones were seized from his possession. In total, 52 mobile phones were seized worth 10.5 lakh.

The two accused have been remanded to police custody for further interrogation. Investigations revealed that a group of associates stole phones from crowded places and handed them over to the accused, who facilitated their sale outside the state.

Raghu Dixit to rock the city on Dec 1

Get ready for an unforgettable evening as Raghu Dixit, the celebrated folk-fusion artist, takes the stage in Bengaluru on December 1, 2024, at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield. This live concert will showcase his latest album Shakkar, offering fans a chance to experience his new music alongside iconic hits like 'Mysore Se Aayi' and 'Hey Bhagwan'. Known for his powerful voice and vibrant stage presence, Raghu Dixit blends traditional Indian sounds with contemporary influences, creating a musical experience that resonates with audiences of all ages.

Produced by Akar Advertising & Marketing and Hummingbird Inc Events, and curated by TribeVibe, this concert promises to be a celebration of music like no other. Supported by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore, the event guarantees a sensory journey for music lovers. Whether you're a long-time fan or new to his music, this concert promises to deliver a dynamic performance that will leave you captivated.

Fans of Raghu Dixit can expect to be taken on an emotional and energetic ride as he performs his latest hits from Shakkar, and also takes a trip down memory lane with his all-time favorites. The concert will be a unique blend of soulful melodies and foot-tapping rhythms that will have the crowd engaged from start to finish. It's a chance to not only hear the newest tracks but also to connect with Raghu's music, which has always been rooted in both cultural authenticity and global appeal.

This is more than just a concert—it's a celebration of music, culture, and the unifying power of live performances. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this special evening and experience Raghu Dixit's music in a way you've never heard before. Make sure to grab your tickets early, as they're expected to sell out quickly.

Book your tickets today on BookMyShow and get ready for an evening filled with soulful, energetic music! For more information and to secure your tickets, visit Raghu Dixit Live on BookMyShow

AI-powered diabetes care delivers results

KRSSDI's study shows that personalised remote care improves blood sugar, weight, and blood pressure, with many patients reducing or stopping medications

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A study conducted in India by the Karnataka Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (KRSSDI) showed that using artificial intelligence (AI) in diabetes management can greatly improve health outcomes for patients with Type 2 diabetes.

The study investigated how AI-powered precision care, when combined with remote monitoring, can help patients manage their blood sugar and improve overall health. Over 90 days, 725 adults between ages 20 and 70 with Type 2 diabetes participated in a program that offered tailored care plans based on lab results, lifestyle, and other personal factors. Patients followed the program through a mobile app, which allowed for continuous updates and adjustments to their treatment based on their progress.

The research, spearheaded by Dr Manohar KN, Chairman of Disha India; Vijay Kumar K, Honorary Secretary of KRSSDI; and Dr Suman R, former Chairman of KRSSDI, has been accepted by the International Diabetes Federation for presentation at its 2025 conference in Bangkok. "This study demonstrates the transformative impact of AI in diabetes care. By making healthcare more precise and accessible, AI-driven approaches have the potential to greatly improve quality of life while managing Type 2 diabetes," said Dr Manohar.

The study found that over 50% of insulin users stopped or reduced their doses, with 30% cutting back

Key results

Key results of the study included a significant decrease in blood sugar levels. The average HbA1c—a measure of blood sugar control—dropped by 1.2% from an initial average of 8.8%. Fasting blood sugar and post-meal blood sugar readings also fell by 40 mg/dL and 83 mg/dL, respectively. In addition to improved blood sugar levels, patients saw notable cardio-metabolic benefits. On average, participants lost 3.8 kg, and both systolic and diastolic blood pressures were reduced by 10 mm Hg and 4 mm Hg, respectively.

> **By making healthcare more precise, AI-driven approaches have the potential to greatly improve quality of life while managing Type 2 diabetes**
>
> –Dr Manohar

The study also showed encouraging trends in medication management. Over half of the participants using insulin were able to discontinue it, and 30% reduced their insulin doses. Among those taking oral medications, 67% maintained their dosages, 25% reduced them, and 5% were able to stop medications altogether.

The researchers emphasised that AI's role in managing diabetes goes beyond adjusting treatments. The technology provides a continuous education component, helping patients better understand and manage their condition. Remote monitoring also allows healthcare providers to offer guidance in real-time, improving the overall patient experience and engagement in self-care.

'Varying charges by aggregators cause confusion'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with hundreds of complaints being received daily. Some cases related to app-based taxi services are pending in court, making it challenging to take legal action against drivers and aggregators who violate the uniform fare rule," he added.

The 'One City One Rate' concept was introduced to prevent passenger exploitation, setting fares based on vehicle type: Fare structure for taxis is set at Rs 100 for the first 4 km and Rs 24 for each subsequent km for vehicles costing less than Rs 10 lakh. For vehicles costing between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 15 lakh, the fare is Rs 115 for the first 4 km and Rs 28 for each additional km. For cars costing Rs 15 lakh and above, the fare is Rs 130 for the first 4 km and Rs 32 for each subsequent km. However, this fare structure is frequently disregarded, resulting in passengers paying significantly more than intended.

2.22 lakh cabs in city

In Bengaluru, app-based taxi services operate approximately 2.22 lakh cabs, completing over 80,000 trips per day. However, fare consistency remains a constant issue, as prices fluctuate based on demand and supply, leading to customer exploitation with higher fares during peak hours. Aggregator companies frequently employ surge pricing, which results in arbitrary charges that far exceed the standard rates set for distance, time, and destination. This practice is prevalent during peak hours or in high-demand areas, where fares spike disproportionately.

"Different aggregator companies charge varying fares for the same destination, which adds to the confusion and unfairness. City taxi drivers are also engaging in similar practices to maximise earnings, mirroring the behaviour of aggregator companies. This lack of uniformity and transparency in fare determination has led to widespread customer dissatisfaction. Despite regulations intended to standardise taxi fares, both app-based and traditional taxi services continue to exploit customers with inconsistent and inflated pricing," added Gowda.

Ecopharmacovigilance: Tracking medicine waste impact

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Ecopharmacovigilance (EPV) is an emerging field that seeks to understand the unintended effects of pharmaceuticals on the environment, particularly water quality and human health. While traditional pharmacovigilance focuses on the effects of medicines on human beings, EPV expands its scope to include the ecological impact of pharmaceutical use.

Many pharmaceuticals find their way into the environment through various pathways such as human waste, improper drug disposal, agricultural runoff, and emissions from pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities. These substances often end up in water bodies as wastewater treatment plants struggle to adequately filter them out.

Studies show widespread water contamination from pharmaceuticals, chemicals, pesticides, and weedicides. This contamination has led to disruptions in aquatic life cycles, the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and other ecological imbalances with potential implications for human health. For instance, estrogen-like compounds found in birth control pills have been shown to cause hormonal disruptions in aquatic species, leading to skewed gender ratios among populations. Antibiotics in water can foster antibiotic resistance, posing increasing challenges for public health, as these resistant strains can hinder medical treatments for bacterial infections.

Even trace levels of pharmaceuticals in drinking water raise concerns over potential health implications. Long-term exposure, although at low concentrations could lead to endocrine disruptions, antibiotic resistance, and chronic accumulation of harmful substances in human bodies.

Ecopharmacovigilance aims to address these issues through a multi-disciplinary approach, encompassing environmental monitoring, risk assessment, regulatory oversight, and public awareness. Efforts are also underway to address challenges such as the lack of comprehensive data on the environmental occurrence and impacts of pharmaceuticals, the need for improved wastewater treatment technologies, and the promotion of greener pharmaceutical options.

Unused drugs are discarded in water or burned

Ecopharmacovigilance plays a vital role in safeguarding environmental and public health in the face of increasing pharmaceutical use. By monitoring the impact of pharmaceuticals on water quality and human health, EPV offers hope for mitigating the risks associated with this pollution and encourages sustainable practices in the production, use, and disposal of medications.

Safe and scientific disposal of unused drugs poses a significant cost, and such facilities are not widely available in many states. Consequently, individuals are compelled to either discard their unused drugs in water bodies or burn them in open spaces, resulting in environmental pollution.

A large number of countries in the world have developed programmes for the collection of unused and expired medicines. Furthermore, in several countries, it was observed that pharmaceutical firms and pharmacies actively participated in the process of collection of unused and expired medicines for their safe disposal. While countries such as the USA, Australia, Hungary, and others have established national drug collection programs.

The World Health Organisation(WHO) recommended guidelines for the safe disposal of expired drugs. Depending on the type of pharmaceutical formulation, the best suitable method should be implemented to dispose of the waste pharmaceuticals.

Due to the lack of strict policies, combined with the widely available and easily accessible medicines in India, we are at a higher risk of encountering a significant volume of unused and expired medicines. The Kerala government in India has introduced a program called PROUD (Program for Removal of Unused Drugs) to tackle the issue of unused and expired medications. This initiative can serve as a model for other states in India, potentially extending the PROUD program nationwide. As responsible citizens, we should visit local pharmacies to return our unused or expired medications for safe disposal.

The author is an EPV Research Scholar

HEALTH TIP: Rubbing tomatoes can help combat oily skin as it reduces the oil content from skin

Almonds can help stabilise blood sugar, making them a great snack for those managing diabetes

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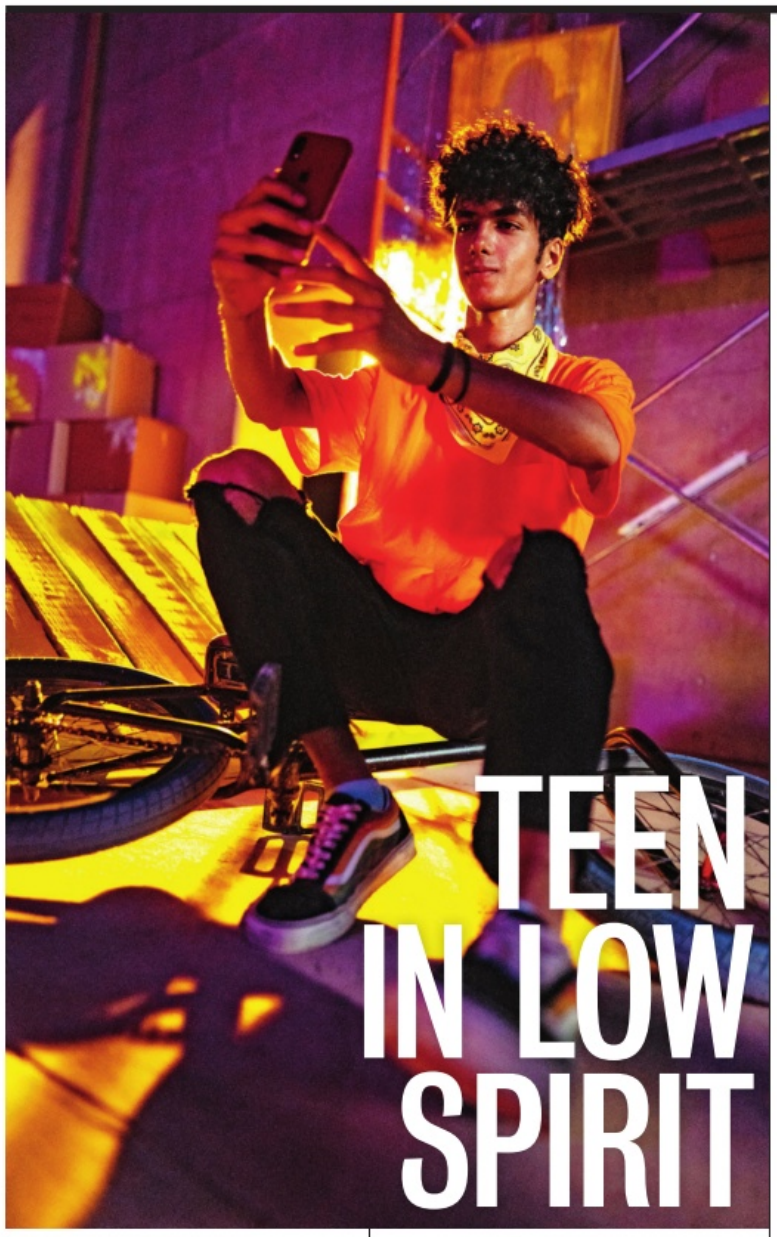

TEEN IN LOW SPIRIT

Social media harms young people – debates about it are a misdirection

The Australian government is developing legislation that will ban children under 16 from social media. There has been a huge public debate about whether there is sufficient direct evidence of harm to introduce this regulation.

The players in this debate include academics, mental health organisations, advocacy groups and digital education providers. Few step back to look at the entire research landscape.

Social media has become integral to everyday life. Not many teens want to be extensively researched, so studies are pragmatic, require consent and findings are limited. As a result, we tend to hear that the effects are small or even inconclusive.

For the public it's crucial to understand all research studies have limitations, and must be interpreted within the context in which the data was collected. To understand any report, we must scrutinise the details.

Several mechanisms are at play

In recent years, anxiety has been on the rise among children and young people. Understanding why young people are anxious, depressed or overly focused on themselves is no easy task.

When it comes to the potential negative impact of social media, several mechanisms are at play. To unpack them, data is needed from many angles: examining mood while online, examining mental health over several years, school relationships, even brain scans, to name just a few.

Despite all this complexity, the public tends to mostly hear about it through splashy headlines. One example is the "small and inconsistent" result from an umbrella study of several meta-analyses totalling 1.9 million children and teenagers.

However, it's important to recognise this umbrella study included many research papers from an earlier time when researchers couldn't measure social media use as accurately as they can now.

One influential data set asked people to leave out time spent "interacting with friends and family" when they estimated their time on social media. Yet in 2014 to 2015, sharing photos, following, and interacting with people you knew was the main use of social media. The findings appeared within a larger study a few years later, resulting in one headline that stated: "screen time may be no worse for kids than eating potatoes".

With so many sources of error, it's no wonder there is vigorous debate among researchers over the extent of social media harm. Limitations are par for the course. Worse, researchers are often not given full access to data from social media companies.

That's why we need to pay more attention to big tech whistleblowers who have inside access.

Meanwhile, these companies do have access to the data. They use it to exploit human nature.

Focusing on debates between researchers is a misdirection and makes us complacent. There is enough evidence to demonstrate excessive social media use can be harmful to young people.

Here's what the evidence shows

One argument you may hear a lot is that it's not clear whether depression and anxiety cause higher screen time use, or higher screen time causes more depression and anxiety. This is known as a bidirectional effect – something that goes both ways.

But that's no reason to ignore potential harms. If anything, bidirectional effects matter more, not less, because factors feed into one another. Unchecked, they cause the problem to grow.

Harms of social media use are shown in studies that examine the effects of sharing selfies, the impact of algorithms, influencers, extreme content, and the growth in cyberbullying.

Social media activates envy, comparisons and fear of missing out, or FOMO. Many teens use social media while procrastinating.

It is through these mechanisms that the links to depression, anxiety, low self esteem and self harm are clear.

Finally, until the age of 16, increased time on social media is associated with feeling less satisfied with appearance and school work. There is also reliable evidence that limiting social media use reduces levels of anxiety, depression and FOMO in 17–25-year-olds.

We ignore this evidence at our peril.

The evidence is sufficient

Understanding the intricacies of how every aspect of modern life affects mental health will take a long time. The work is difficult, particularly when there is a lack of reliable data from tech companies on screen time.

Yet there is already enough reliable evidence to limit children's exposure to social media for their benefit. Instead of debating the nuances of research and levels of harm, we should accept that for young people, social media use is negatively affecting their development and their school communities.

In fact, the government's proposed ban of children's social media use has parallels with banning phones in schools. In 2018, some critics argued that "banning smartphones would stop children gaining the knowledge they needed to cope online".

Yet evidence now shows that smartphone bans in schools have resulted in less need for care around mental health issues, less bullying, and academic improvements – the latter especially for socio-economically disadvantaged girls.

It's time to agree that the harms are there, that they are damaging our community, and that we need strong, thoughtful regulation of social media use in young people.

(By Danielle Einstein, Adjunct Fellow, School of Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Exposure to antiseizure meds in womb may raise kids' neurodevelopmental risks

Children born to women who take antiseizure medications during pregnancy may be at an increased risk of facing neurodevelopmental conditions, according to a large study on Friday.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed that children exposed to antiseizure drugs valproate, topiramate, and carbamazepine were linked to specific neurodevelopmental issues.

However, those exposed to the antiseizure drug lamotrigine in utero were at no additional risk for autism or intellectual disability, said researchers at Drexel University. The team included data from more than three million children from the United Kingdom and Sweden, including 17,495 who were exposed to antiseizure medications during pregnancy.

They found that children exposed to topiramate during pregnancy were 2.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with intellectual disability, which raises their risk to 2.1 per cent by age 12.

Yet, the researchers cautioned that the absolute risk of neurodevelopmental outcomes in offspring is low. "Our findings suggest that while certain medications may pose some risk, lamotrigine may be a less risky option," said Brian K. Lee, Professor at the Dornsife School of Public Health.

"Active monitoring of any antiseizure medication is critical to ensure safety and effectiveness, particularly during pregnancy," Lee said.

The researchers noted that the study does not argue against the use of antiseizure medications in patients who benefit, but encourages them to have a conversation with their doctor to determine if their course of treatment is most appropriate for them.

"Decisions should be made that are tailored to individual patients," said co-lead author Paul Madley-Dowd, a research fellow at the University of Bristol. "Stopping antiseizure medications can cause individual harm and harm to offspring, so these conversations always need to happen with a clinician." — IANS

All you need to know about...

Dry skin remedies

1. Rose water
Rose water soothes and moisturises skin while balancing pH levels making it a perfect choice for dry skin. In case your skin gets dry and itching dabbing a bit of rose water will gently soothe the area, minimising irritation and moisturising skin.
Tip: Add plain rose water to a spray bottle and use it on your skin throughout the day.

2. Coconut Oil
Coconut oil is a natural emollient and that makes it the perfect companion for dry dehydrated skin. It nourishes the skin and also deeply moisturises. It can be applied pre or post-shower to moisturise your skin.
Tip: Massage coconut oil on the soles of your feet before you go to sleep at night.

3. Honey
Honey is a natural humectant and deeply moisturises skin. Apart from moisturising, it also has anti-inflammatory properties which help in calming irritation and redness or any other skin inflammation.
Tip: Apply directly on affected areas and wash off after 15 minutes.

4. Avocado Oil
Avocado oil is thick and nourishing and gets absorbed into the skin very easily as well. It makes for a great option to treat dry skin as a natural moisturiser. This will also help with reducing the signs of ageing.
Tip: This oil can be applied directly to your face and body.

5. Papaya Toner
Papaya is said to have high moisturising benefits and it also brightens skin. It is packed with nutrients essential to keep skin healthy, nourished and glowing. Papayas can also help soothe sunburn and inflammation. Scrape the pulp of one slice of papaya, add water and blend it. Use it with a cotton ball after cleansing your skin.
Tip: This toner has a shelf life of five days only. —Femina

Cash crunch halts desilting work at Bellandur Lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

desilting work, and wet and slushy soil conditions inside the lake have stalled desilting.

'Pace of work sluggish'

Experts say the developed work of Bellandur and Varthur is going on at a painfully slow pace with various irregularities.

Professor TV Ramachandra, who has been closely associated with the Bellandur and Varthur Lake Rejuvenation initiative, has expressed concern about the issue. Prof Ramachandra, who recently visited the lake to take stock of the work, told Bangalore Mirror that while the development work drags on, many other issues need to be addressed. He also confirmed that the project indeed is cash-strapped.

"Desilting on nearly 200 acres of the lake area is still not completed. Before they can take up desilting, the lake has to be dried up. However, I have been told that there is no money to further the development work of Bellandur and Varthur. The government must allocate the money to the project. It is urgent to get a green signal for dewatering the lake," said Dr Ramachandra.

Defunct equipment

He also expressed his disappointment at broken surveillance cameras and non-functional lights around the lake that were installed for security reasons. Moreover, NGT had given strict instructions to BDA to remove a pipe that was put in by the Minor Irrigation Department, which bifurcated the lake. However, the pipe has not been removed.

"Nearly a 100 surveillance cameras were installed but they have not been functioning for three years now. Similarly, the lights are also not working. BBMP marshals posted for monitoring the project site have not received monthly compensation. Both Bellandur and Varthur are in bad shape. The lake areas have become a security threat," added Dr Ramachandra.

Wetland work drags on

In April this year, BDA, in its progress report submitted to NGT also highlighted that 30% of the wetland construction work at the main inlet of Koramangala and Agara Valley is completed.

However, according to Prof Ramachandra, who has provided the design and guidelines for wetland formation, work on ground has hardly progressed.

"Even if you plant one sapling in the designated area, you can say the work has started. There is no significant progress on wetland construction at Bellandur. The state government is busy spending money on illogical projects such as the skydeck, but has no funds to revive these lakes, which will solve the water problem of east Bengaluru.

The government should ensure that rejuvenation of both lakes is completed in six months from now," said the Rajyotsava awardee.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sainabba Poonthala D/o Mohammed Poonthala R/o No.336, 13th cross, Rameshnagar, HAL post, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Sainaba Poonthala Affidavit Dt.15/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, MOHAMMED ISMAIL NABI R/a.No.68,6th Cross,10th Main,Vasanthappa Block, Ganganagar . Bengaluru-32. I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ISMAIL ALAIS RAFIQ Vide affidavit dated 12/11/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, LAKSHMI SANJANA CHALUVADI W/o Yash Rishikesh Varu R/at No.102/D 29th A Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560082 have changed my name to SANJANA YASH vide affidavit dated: 14/11/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, DIVYA MADHESWARAN W/o Abishek Belagodu R/at No. 275/1, 9th A Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name to DIVYA MADHESWARAN ABISHEK vide affidavit dated: 14/11/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, RAJANI R, Residing at No Sri Krishna Block A, Flat No T5, 5th Cross, 4th Main, BOB Colony, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to RAJNI SHAH, vide affidavit dated 15/11/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Mohamed Ismail Abdul Latif S/O, Abdul Lateef R/o Flat No G-4, Regency Corner #15, 11th Cross, 1st Main, Kariyanapalya Lingarajapuram, Bangalore - 560084. have changed my name to Mohammed Ismail Abdul Lateef for all purposes.

I, H Kamala W/o, Shivkant Biradar R/o #1011, 16th A Cross,1st Stage, 5th Block, Hbr Layout, Nagavara, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Kamala Biradar for all purposes.

I, FATHIMA BI R/at NH-4 Road, Kallambella, Sira Taluk, Tumkur- 572125 have changed my name to SABJAAN SAB FATHIMA BI vide affidavit dated: 04/11/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Sadashiv Gajanana Bhat S/O, Gajanana Bhat R/o No 121 Branch 1 Ummachgi Kotemane Umma Chegi Yellapur Uttara Kannada 581347 have changed my name to Sadashiv Bhat for all purposes.

I, Asif S/o Dastageer R/o 511 3rd Cross begur Main Rd Virat nagar Bommanahalli B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Mohammed Asif for all purposes.

I Sachin Basanagoud Biradar S/O, Basanagouda R/o No 107 Guru Nivas, Solapur Road, Rajendra Nagar, Vijayapura Karnataka have changed my name to Sachin Biradar.

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Day of drizzles

Commuters navigate the streets amid heavy rainfall that lashed the city, on Friday

Speeding private bus runs over, kills woman

Woman was waiting at KSRTC depot when bus knocked her down

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A 59-year-old woman lost her life after being struck by a speeding private bus near KSRTC Bus Depot 5 on BHEL Road in Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station limits on Thursday afternoon.

The victim, identified as Kutej Bhanu, a homemaker from Bannerghatta, was waiting for a bus with her husband after returning from Channapatna, where they had cast their votes in a by-election.

According to police reports, the incident occurred around 1 pm when a private bus traveling from Mysore Road to Market Road hit Kutej while she was standing near the depot. The impact left her with severe leg injuries as the wheels of the bus ran over her.

Passersby rushed her to a nearby hospital, but despite medical efforts, she succumbed to her injuries an hour later. The bus driver fled the scene immediately after the accident.

A case has been registered following a complaint filed by her husband. Police have launched an investigation to trace the driver and ascertain the circumstances of the accident.

CRIME FILES

Lokayukta police catch BMTF inspector accepting bribe

The Lokayukta Police apprehended a BMTF Inspector Arunkumar GV, red-handed while accepting a bribe of 2 lakh at Rashtrotthana Circle, Thanisandra. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Srinath Mahadev Joshi, SP, KLA.

The case originated from a complaint filed by Paramesh, a resident of Kadugodi, who alleged that the inspector demanded 15 lakh to close a petition against his wife, Sridevi. Following negotiations, the inspector agreed to accept a reduced amount through his associate, Nandish.

A trap was laid, and the inspector, along with his friend Nandish, was caught in possession of the bribe money. The case has been registered as Crime No. 41/2024 under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.

The operation was led by TLO Rajashekaraiah BC, with oversight from Vasanth C10. The team, including officers Putta Obala Reddy and other staff, successfully executed the operation. The seized bribe money has been secured, and further investigations are underway.

Labourer crushed while he was asleep

In a tragic incident early Friday morning, a 37-year-old labourer lost his life after a goods vehicle ran him over near Parle-G toll lay-by on Tumkur Road. The labourer, identified as Basavaraju, a resident of Laggere and native of Sindhanur, Raichur, was sleeping under the parked goods vehicle.

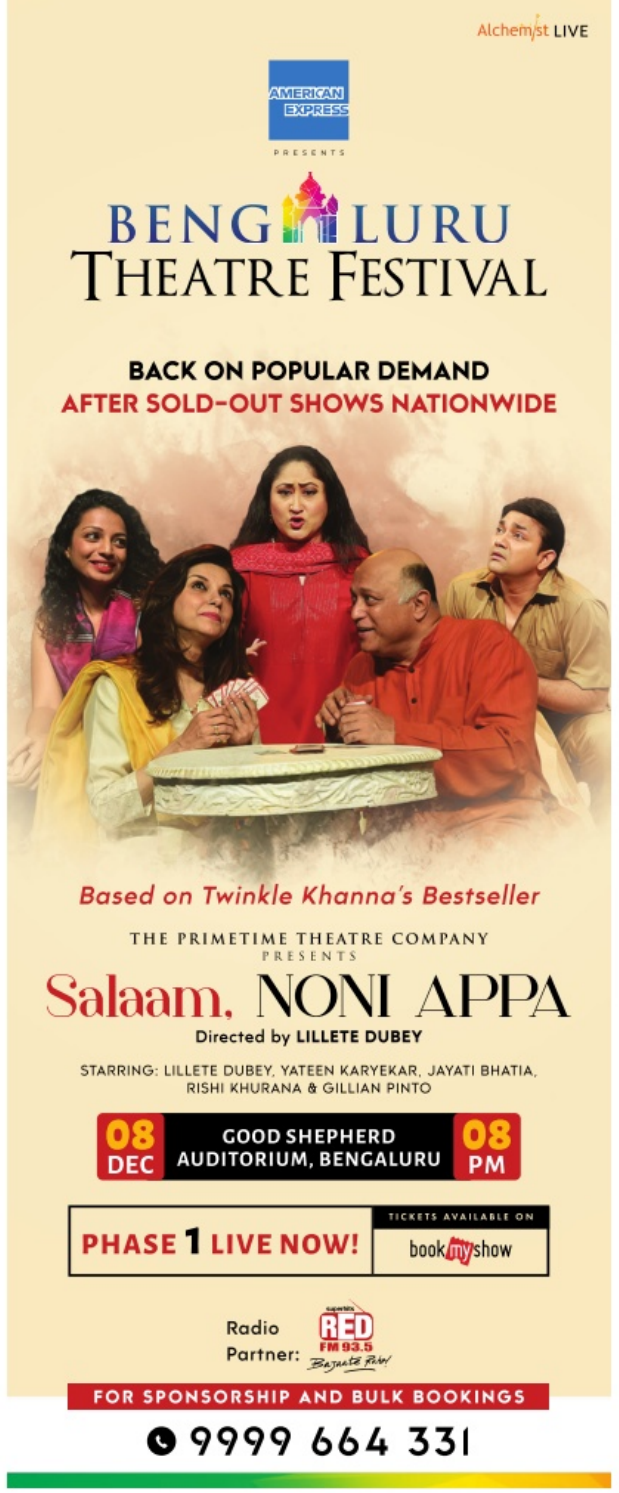
According to police reports, the accident took place around 2 am. The driver of the goods vehicle, who remains unidentified, started the vehicle and drove off without noticing Basavaraju sleeping underneath. The vehicle ran over the victim's head, causing fatal injuries. Basavaraju succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

The driver fled the scene after the accident and a case has been registered at the Peenya Traffic Police Station. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify the vehicle and apprehend the accused driver.

Be a sport

SportsCentric, a platform that promotes corporate wellness is launching the Corporate Super League, a 5-a-side football tournament exclusively for companies that believe in holistic employee wellness. Set to take place at Silver Jubilee Turf-Park, Bellandur, across five days (November 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30), the event will feature teams from industry leaders such as Dell, Samsung, HSBC, and Capgemini. With 32 registered teams and an anticipated total of over 350 participants, SportsCentric aims to make this event a catalyst for physical health and camaraderie in the workplace.

Companies appreciated the importance of sports. "Whether through organised sports or simple team-building exercises, the lessons learned on the field can be powerful tools for improving productivity, morale, and work culture within an organisation," said Jason Ivan, Senior HR- Recruitment, Epsilon.



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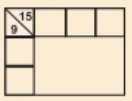
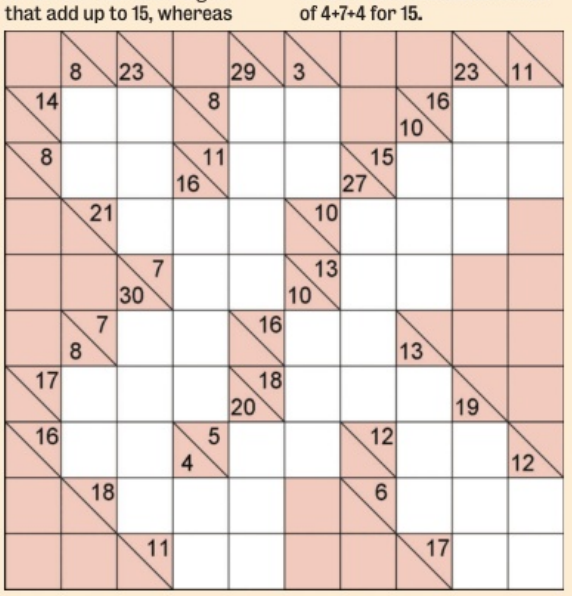
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

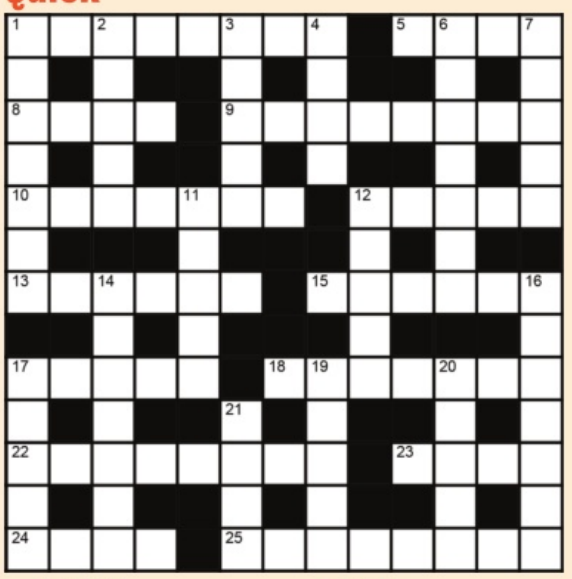


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hard at work (2,3,3)
5 Hebrew measure–"pa he" anagram ? (4)
8 Sporting side (4)
9 Extinct elephants (8)
10 Indirect, angled (7)
12 Show the way (5)
13 Revised copies (6)
15 Sparing (6)
17 Girl's name seen in excellent surroundings! (5)
18 Moscow's citadel (7)
22 Where in Karnataka Shiravati River drops 253 meters (3,5)
23 Wealthy (4)
24 Egg yellow (4)
25 Soothes or calms (8)

DOWN

1 Result or issue (7)
2 Lag behind (5)
3 J in J & K? (5)
4 Explosive device (4)
6 Striking on a golf green (7)
7 Oise tributary (5)
11 Female sovereign (5)
12 Eat to excess (5)
14 Illicit (7)
16 Has one's afternoon meal (7)
17 Have a good time ? (5)
19 Relaxes (5)
20 Not telling the truth (5)
21 Small insect (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G

WQT PAT WQFAZ F EP APW IKAW WP LT MKJJTE FN YFGNW JKER. FW NPVAEN JFUT K NKEEJT QPGNT.–HKMUFT UTAATER

Linemaro

I am a techie, and you've stolen the ASCII to my heart

Mindchow

Being the best is the only market that's not crowded

Joke of the day

I just got a new iPod. It's got 80 gigabytes. Because I like to jog for three weeks at a time and I do not want to hear the same song twice

Loop

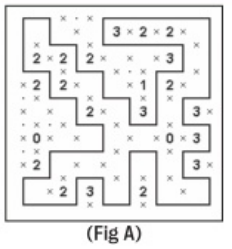
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

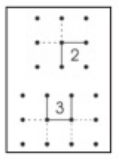
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

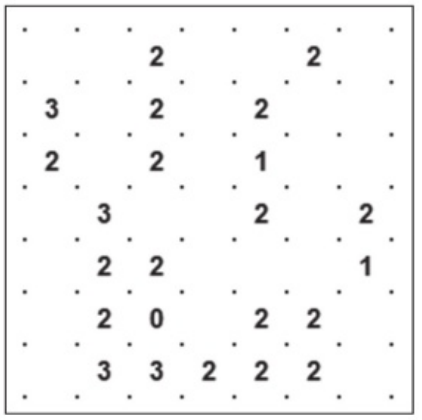
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



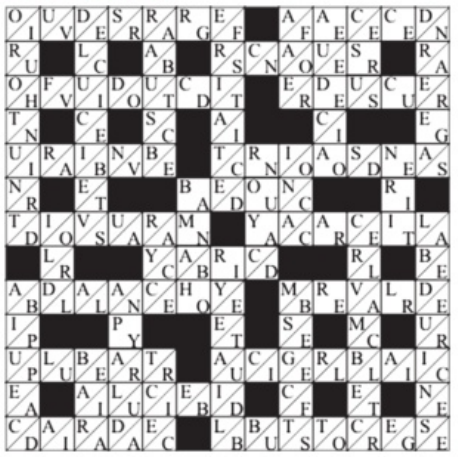
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



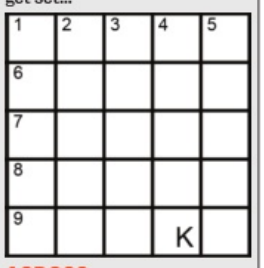
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Apers; 6 Me Orr; 7 In nil; 8 Maine; 9 Snook

DOWN

1 Loans; 2 I romp; 3 Amino; 4 Inker; 5 Sneer

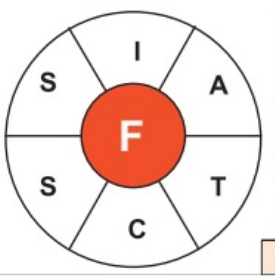
Mensapuzzle

Here's a variation on the money" puzzles we've done. This time the alphametic has two solutions. Can you find them both?

Let D = 6, O = 0 and N = 2, for both solutions.

```
  DAD
  SEND
+ MORE
MONEY
```

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		4		3		7		
	5	7	9	8	2	4	1	
	3						2	
		9	1		8	3		
		2	4		3	6		
	2						9	
	1	3	8	4	6	5	7	
		8		7		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

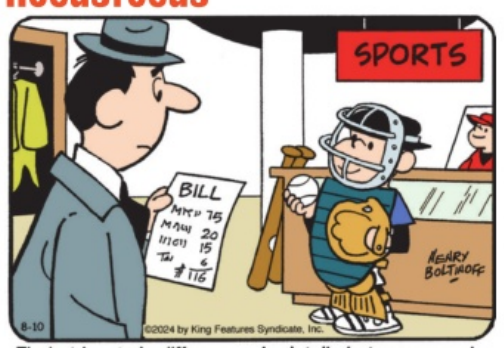
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15: 3 4 8 8

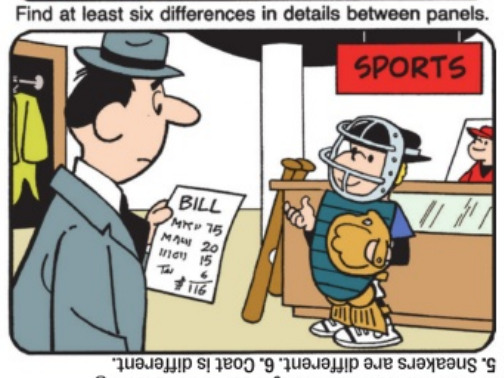
Medium = 3: 5 7 8 9

Hard = 13: 3 5 9 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bat is longer. 2. Ball is missing. 3. Man has less hair. 4. Boy's ear is not showing. 5. Sneakers are different. 6. Coat is different.

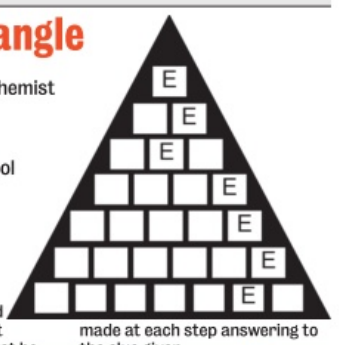
Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same. Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?

1) punched when starting work & discussion about scaling a mountain
2) a container of fibs & a shortage of baked goods

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Beryllium for the hemist
3 Ten decibels?
4 Digestive juice
5 Sacred book
6 A wooden hand tool
7 Bit daintily



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

TELL HER TO DANCE...YOUR MASTER WISHES TO BE ENTERTAINED!
I HEAR AND OBEY, MASTER!
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, PAPPY?
?
DANCE! DANCE!! SHAKE A LEG!!
STOP THAT, PAPPY! DANCING GIRLS DANCE BY THEMSELVES!
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE FUN WITH MUSIC?
2-19
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

NO ONE'S GONNA BE AT MY PARTYYYYY UUUUUUUGGGHHH.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I INVITED DANA, LEE, ANDY, RANDY...
ANDY AND RANDY?! THE SCHOOL'S MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS?! THEY MIGHT ROB US!
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Crankshaft

I'D IMAGINE THAT DOING A COMIC STRIP HAS TO BE A GREAT LIVELIHOOD.
PIZZA
IT IS...
BUT IT'S NOT AS LIVELY AS IT USED TO BE.
PIZZA
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the moon brings blessings, likely with good news in your career. Domestic life may feel joyful, but try to avoid unnecessary arguments. Overexcitement might test your patience. It's a good day for real estate investments, and students are likely to stay focused.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you might feel a bit down, but you will soon regain focus on your tasks. Children's academics may need extra attention. You're likely to succeed against opponents. Investors should make cautious decisions, and job seekers may find suitable opportunities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may sense negative energy around you, so it is advised to avoid investing in unnecessary assets. Friends might be less supportive than usual, so it's best to make decisions independently.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel low today; you may also encounter obstacles at work. Patience is key with investments, and quick decisions in business aren't advisable. You are advised to keep an eye on impulsive spending, as it might not sit well with family.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your hard work may pay off, leading to success. You could plan a short work trip with support from subordinates in business matters. Even opponents may acknowledge your efforts, and you may receive good news from siblings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings good energy and inner strength. You're likely to make solid plans and execute them well, though it's important to read documents carefully before signing them. An overenthusiastic approach could lead you to invest in family business ventures. Lovebirds should steer clear of sensitive discussions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel restless or anxious; you may waste your time on unproductive tasks. A visit to a religious place may bring peace of mind. Elderly advice might provide direction to manage any current challenges.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, social gatherings may help you reconnect with beneficial networks. Those in glamour, art, or fashion may plan new professional ventures. Students should see improvement in studies, and lovebirds can expect joyful moments.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work; you might feel tired and unable to join family gatherings. Expanding your overseas network is possible, though you should be cautious with investments. A job promotion may be on the horizon.

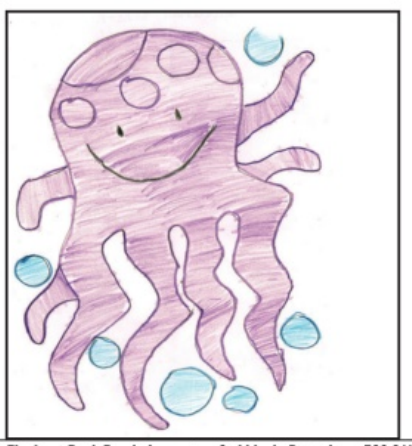
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, situations seem favourable now. You may find success in business and be rewarded for your hard work. This is a good time to restart any postponed projects. A peaceful religious journey may bring satisfaction. Donations to charity or religious causes could also be part of your day.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you're likely to keep spending in check and might consider business investments. Real estate ventures could improve future finances. Domestic matters get your attention, but your spouse might feel unwell or disappointed.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The moon's position may affect your health today, so it is advised that you avoid business investments, as gains could turn into losses. You are also advised to refrain from getting involved in controversies, as they could harm your reputation.

KIDZONE

Sai Sunil, Bengaluru



Ethan Luke, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(36÷9)=4
36×(4)-36×3!
36x4=144
36×6=216
144-216= -72

BULL'S EYE
fact, FASCIST, fast, flat, fist, sift

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	R	E
O	R	M	E	R
L	I	N	I	N
A	M	I	N	E
N	O	O	K	S

QUOTE UNCODE
The one thing I do not want to be called is First Lady. It sounds like a saddle horse. - Jackie Kennedy

STRIKE OUT

D	I	R	A	C		L	U	S	T	R	E	S		
E		A	L	I	B	I		F		E		E		
P	L	E	A	T		A	C	E	R	B	I	C		
I		Y		T		E	M		U					
B	L	A	N	C	H	E		B	E	A	R	D		
	L		C	A	R	D		L		B				
D	I	S	A	R	M		A	C	A	C	I	A		
N		T		A	E	O	N		R					
U	R	I	N	E		T	R	I	O	D	E	S		
T		C		S		A		I		G				
O	V	I	D	U	C	T		E	D	U	C	E		
R		L		B		S	C	O	U	R		R		
E		A	L	I	B	I		F		E		E		
P	L	E	A	T		A	C	E	R	B	I	C		
I		Y		T		E	M		U					
B	L	A	N	C	H	E		B	E	A	R	D		
	L		C	A	R	D		L		B				
D	I	S	A	R	M		A	C	A	C	I	A		
N		T		A	E	O	N		R					
U	R	I	N	E		T	R	I	O	D	E	S		
T		C		S		A		I		G				
O	V	E	R	A	G	E		F	A	C	E	D		

QUICK

O	N	T	H	E	J	O	B		E	P	H	A		
U		R		A		O		U		I				
T	E	A	M		M	A	M	M	O	T	H	S		
C		I		M		B		T		N				
O	B	L	I	O	U	E		G	U	I	D	E		
M		U		O		N								
E	D	I	T	E	D		F	R	U	G	A	L		
	L		E		G				U					
E	L	L	E	N		K	R	E	M	L	I	N		
J	O	G	F	A	L	L	S		R	I	C	H		
N		E		F		E		Y		C				
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y					
Y	O	L	K		A	S	S	U	A	G	E	S		
O		A		E		T		N		E				

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Be, Bel, Bile, Bible, Dibble, Nibbled.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 8 – 4 + 8 = 15
Medium
7 – 5 – 8 + 9 = 3
Hard
3 x 3 – 5 + 9 = 13

SUDOKU

2	9	4	5	3	1	7	6	8
6	5	7	9	8	2	4	1	3
8	3	1	7	6	4	9	2	5
4	6	9	1	2	8	3	5	7
3	8	5	6	9	7	2	4	1
1	7	2	4	5	3	6	8	9
7	2	6	3	1	5	8	9	4
9	1	3	8	4	6	5	7	2
5	4	8	2	7	9	1	3	6

RIDDLER
1) time clock & climb talk & 2) pack of lies & lack of pies

MENSA PUZZLE

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Host for Academy Awards
Emmy Award-winning TV host, writer, producer, and comedian Conan O'Brien will be the sole host for the 97th Academy Awards on March 2, 2025, according to Deadline

BangaloreMirror | 16
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Fit check indeed

Tamannaah Bhatia sure has her work cut out

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia looked jaw-droppingly good as she posted pictures for a "fit check" dressed in a cutout outfit.

The actress took to Instagram, where she shared pictures and videos from her photoshoot, where she was seen sporting Australian designer Christopher Esber's twisted lever dress in shades of olive.

In the pictures from the photo-shoot the actress has light make-up and completed her look with a splash of gold in the form of jewelry.

"Posting a fit check," she wrote as the caption. Tamannaah will next be seen in 'Sikandar Ka Muqaddar', helmed by Neeraj Pandey. It is set to premiere on Netflix on November 29.

The film also stars Jimmy Shergill, Avinash Tiwary and Rajiv Mehta in pivotal roles.

"Sikandar Ka Muqaddar" unfolds a gripping tale of a heist, a relentless police officer, and a pursuit that spans 15 years, offering a thrilling mix of high-stakes drama. The film also stars Divya Dutta and Zoya Afroz. The forthcoming thriller delves into crime, obsession, and the pursuit of justice. The project marks Jimmy Shergill's first onscreen collaboration with Tamannaah.

The actress also has "Odela 2". On November 3, Tamannaah wished everyone "happy Navratri" along with a glimpse from her upcoming film. Tamannah took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of herself praying in front of the temple dressed in her "Odela 2" costume. **IANS**

New genre

Madhuri on why she accepted 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'

Bollywood diva Madhuri Dixit has been ruling the box office with her amazing acting stints. The actress once again created magic on-screen with her performance in Anees Bazmee's latest film, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'.

In a conversation with ANI, she got candid about her character and why she decided to take up the project. "I heard the story, I liked it very much. Anees had told the whole script and I felt that my character comes in a very important turn in the film. The entry was very amazing and the confusion after that was also amazing. I had never done a film of this genre, so I thought I had to do it."

Madhuri shared that she had seen both the earlier films and thus she was aware of the genre and thus she decided to do the film because it gave her an opportunity to do something different.

"I had seen part one and part two, so I knew what kind of genre it is. I decided to do it because it gave me something different," she added.

Madhuri became a household name with the 1988 blockbuster 'Tezaab', and her career only soared from there. Madhuri went on to rule Bollywood with consecutive hits like 'Ram Lakhan', 'Parinda', and 'Khalnayak', and also explored offbeat cinema with films like 'Mrityudand'. **—ANI**

Breaking set notions

Actor Demi Moore talked about challenging beauty standards at the age of 40 and shared her experience of wearing a two-piece swimsuit for the action comedy film 'Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle', reported People.

"I was 40, which meant I shouldn't have a body that was desirable--that's what I challenged," she said.

"I feel like we all have a role to play in life, to be of service, and for whatever reason, I feel like that has been something I've been called to do," Moore added. "But I don't think it would've been such a big deal if I hadn't been of an age that, at that time, it was already determined that you should look like..."

Moore said, "It's not like I've set out to redefine that; it's really that I've just been trying to find what's truthful and authentic within myself--and if I can do that, then hopefully that reflects for others."

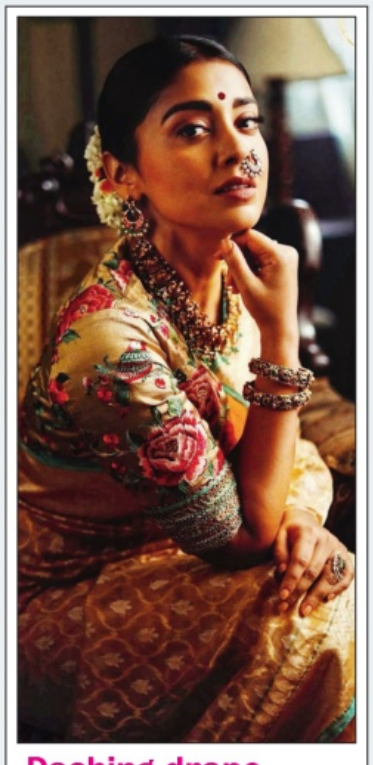
'Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle' is a 2003 action comedy film directed by McG and written by John August, Cormac, and Marianne Wibberley. It is the sequel to 2000's 'Charlie's Angels' and the second film in the 'Charlie's Angels' trilogy. **—ANI**

On a song & dance

Actor Vijay Deverakonda is now breaking his own rules with Sahiba, a collaboration with singer-composer Jasleen Royal. In an exclusive interview, Deverakonda opens up about how persistence won over resistance.

"As soon as I heard it, I knew it was a song that would be heard on repeat. It was a hit song. So, I told her it's a hit song," Deverakonda admits, though he quickly adds that his appreciation for the track didn't immediately translate into participation. "I personally do not like doing music videos, but Jasleen is one little stubborn, persistent girl. This happened purely because of her," he adds.

Deverakonda reveals how her previous hit Heeriye had become a daily soundtrack in his household. Despite recognising 'Sahiba's' potential, he tried every trick in the book to avoid the project. "I kept pushing Jasleen, saying I don't have dates. When she wanted a particular look with long hair, I cut my hair off. She just didn't give up..." he chuckles. **—Vinay MR Mishra, ETimes**



Dashing drape

Shriya Saran elevates ethnic fashion with her authentic saree looks

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code